

DNRC NEWS



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NOW IS THE TIME FOR VERBENONE

DNRC Entomologist provides guidance for use of beetle repellant.

June 28, 2010, Missoula, Montana – Mountain pine beetle will emerge from beneath the bark of infested trees in search of new host trees to attack between mid-July and August. Verbenone, a natural mountain pine beetle repellant, can effectively protect healthy trees from beetle attacks. DNRC Forest Entomologist Amy Gannon offers advice for those interested in using verbenone to protect their trees. “Hang the packets on or after July 1st,” said Gannon. “If you hang it earlier, it may evaporate before the beetles fly and you’ll need to do a second treatment.” Gannon also advises stapling the packet to the north side of the tree at approximately six feet. “Verbenone sends a message that the tree is already full of beetles,” said Gannon. “As a result, beetles pass by that tree and do not mass attack.”

Verbenone is not 100% effective but has been shown to provide protection on a small scale and works best if the brood trees – those containing young beetles about to emerge come July – are removed. It is ineffective on trees that are already attacked and it is only effective as a repellant for the mountain pine beetle, not for others such as western pine beetle or the red turpentine beetle.

Additional information about the use of verbenone is available on the interagency mountain pine beetle website, www.beetles.mt.gov or by calling your local area DNRC, MSU Extension, or USDA Forest Service office. Verbenone is available at your local home, garden, ranch, or farm supply store.

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